REMARKS

The present application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated April 13, 2009. Claims 1, 3-11, 13, and 14 are presented for examination, of which Claims 1, 10, and 11 are in independent form. Claims 1, 3-6, 10, 11, 13, and 14 have been amended to define aspects of Applicant's invention more clearly. Favorable consideration is requested.

The Office Action states that the specification is objected to, as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the phrases "computer program product," "computer usable medium," and "control logic." In response, Claim 11 has been amended to remove these phrases. In addition, the specification has been amended to provide proper antecedent basis for the phrases "computer-readable storage medium" and "computer-readable program codes" recited in amended Claim 11. Applicant submits that no new matter has been added to the disclosure by the changes to the specification. It is believed that the objections to the specification, have been obviated, and their withdrawal is therefore respectfully requested.

The Office Action states that Claims 1, 3, 6-11, 13, and 14 are rejected under § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0003060 (*Asoh et al.*) in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0029531 (*Ohta*); and that Claims 4 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C.§ 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Asoh et al.* in view of *Ohta*, and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,157,465 (*Suda et al.*) For at least the following reasons, Applicant submits that independent Claims 1, 10, and 11, together with the claims dependent therefrom, are patentably distinct from the cited prior art.

The aspect of the present invention set forth in Claim 1 is directed to a connection control method for an information processing apparatus. The method includes a reception step, a

first joining step, a first inquiry step, a first detection step, a first request step, a second joining step, a second inquiry step, a second detection step, and a second request step.

In the reception step, identification information for identifying a first wireless network and a second wireless network is received. The first wireless network is different from the second wireless network. In the first joining step, the first wireless network identified by the identification information received in the reception step is joined wirelessly. In the first inquiry step, information processing apparatuses in the first wireless network are inquired to determine whether the information processing apparatuses are capable of performing a predetermined processing. Based on a positive response in the first inquiry step, an information processing apparatus capable of performing the predetermined processing in the first wireless network is detected, in the first detection step. In the first request step, if the information processing apparatus capable of performing the predetermined processing in the first wireless network is detected in the first detection step, the predetermined processing is requested from the information processing apparatus in the first wireless network capable of performing the predetermined processing.

Notably, if no information processing apparatus capable of performing the predetermined processing in the first wireless network is detected in the first detection step, the second wireless network identified by the identification information received in the reception step is joined wirelessly, in the second joining step. In the second inquiry step, information processing apparatuses in the second wireless network are inquired to determine whether information processing apparatuses are capable of performing the predetermined processing. Based on a positive response to the second inquiry step, an information processing apparatus

capable of performing the predetermined processing in the second wireless network is detected in the second detection. In the second request step, the predetermined processing is requested from the information processing apparatus in the second wireless network capable of performing the predetermined processing.

By virtue of the operation of the above features, when an information processing apparatus joins a network and no other information processing apparatus in the network is capable of performing a desired printing function, the information processing apparatus can join another network automatically and detect another information processing apparatus capable of performing the desired printing function, for example.[1]

. *Asoh et al.* is understood to relate to a computer connected to a plurality of networks (*see* paragraph 2). Apparently, *Asoh et al.* discusses that, to use a predetermined network connection, an object may be selected from a set of objects, wherein each object includes physical and logical network configuration information (*see* paragraph 12). *Asoh et al.* also discusses that a network adapter can be changed when a network connection is selected, that a logical network configuration corresponding to a selected network adapter can be set up, that identification information can be registered, and that information of the selected network adapter and the identification information may be stored (*see* paragraph 13). The identification information relates location information to network connection information (*see* paragraph 14). If a notebook computer is used on a network in a home and on a network in an office, the computer can be connected to either network by selecting a location name of "home" or "office,"

1/ Any examples presented herein are intended for illustrative purposes and are not to be construed to limit the scope of the claims.

for example (*see* paragraph 15 and FIG. 10).

Asoh et al. also discusses that a user can be prompted to enter a location name and to select a category, that a list of usable network adapters can be displayed; that a displayed network adapter can be selected, and that an IP address, a DNS server, and browser settings of a selected network adapter can be displayed and changed (*see* FIG. 4). As best understood by Applicant, if the computer is used in the office and the office network is not detected, selecting the location name of "home" would not cause the computer to join the home network, because the home network would not be available to the computer when the computer is located in the office.

Further, *Asoh et al.* discloses that, when a computer changes locations, an easily identifiable location name can be selected to change wireless networks. That is, *Asoh et al.* discloses that the computer can join a first wireless network in a first location using stored information and, if the computer is moved to an appropriate second location, the computer can join a second wireless network using the stored information. Applicant agrees with the Examiner's conclusion that *Asoh et al.* fails to disclose inquiring whether other information processing apparatuses in a wireless network are capable of performing a predetermined processing. Nothing has been found in *Asoh et al.* that is believed to teach or suggest that the computer can perform detecting of a first network and a second network and that the computer can perform inquiring of devices on the first and second networks. Moreover, nothing has been found in *Asoh et al.* that is believed to teach or suggest that computer joins the second network based on results of such detecting and inquiring.

Ohta is understood to relate to a system for printing information at a conveniently

located printer station that is selected in a predetermined area (*see* paragraph 1). *Ohta* discusses that a plurality of print stations can be provided in the predetermined area and can be networked to a print server that stores information, that a first wireless signal can be sent from a portable device directly to the print stations, that a positional relation between the portable device and each of the print stations can be determined based upon the first wireless signal, that at least one of the print stations can be selected based upon the positional relation, that information can be received at a selected print station, and that the information can be printed at the selected print station (*see* paragraph 7).

Ohta also discusses that a remote printing system can include a client device, a printer server, a plurality of print stations, an access point, and a portable device (*see* paragraph 37). Except for the portable device, all of these components of the remote printing system are connected physically as well as wirelessly to a cable network (*see* paragraph 37). The portable device includes a wireless communication unit that is used to communicate with the print stations and that is used to connect to the cable network via the access point (*see* paragraph 37).

In addition, *Ohta* discusses that, upon receiving a print notice signal from the print server, the portable device commences a printer search process by transmitting the first wireless signal (*see* paragraph 40). Based upon positional relationships between the portable device and the print stations, for example, a desired print station is determined (*see* paragraph 40). Aside from positional relationships, a print type and other print parameters can be used as factors for selecting a print station (*see* paragraph 40). A selected print station establishes a wireless connection to the portable device to inform a user that a print out will be delivered at the selected print station (*see* paragraph 40). Upon establishing a wireless connection, the portable device

sends information, such as a print data pointer, to the selected print station (*see* paragraph 40).

Ohta further discloses that the portable device can inquire whether print stations are present on a wireless network by sending the first wireless signal. Information that is transmitted from a print station to the portable device is understood to include a response to the first wireless signal, control signals that are transmitted when the portable device sends print data pionter to the print station (*see* FIG. 8), and a notification that information will be printed by the print station. None of the information transmitted from the print stations is understood to indicate whether the print station is capable of performing a predetermined processing function. Accordingly, Ohta is not understood to teach or suggest inquiring of print stations in the wireless network whether the print stations are capable of performing a predetermined processing function.

In summary, Applicant submits that a combination of Ohta and Asoh et al., assuming such combination would even be permissible, would fail to teach or suggest a method that includes a "first inquiry step of inquiring, of one or more information processing apparatuses in the first wireless network, whether the one or more information processing apparatuses are capable of performing a predetermined processing," a "first detection step of detecting, based on a positive response to the inquiring in the first inquiry step, detecting an information processing apparatus capable of performing the predetermined processing in the first wireless network," a "second joining step of joining the second wireless network identified by the identification information received in the reception step, if no information processing apparatus capable of performing the predetermined processing in the first wireless network is detected in the first detection step," a "second inquiry step of inquiring, of one or more information processing

apparatuses in the second wireless network, whether the one or more information processing apparatuses are capable of performing the predetermined processing, if no information processing apparatus capable of performing the predetermined processing in the first wireless network is detected in the first detection step," a "second detection step of, based on a positive response to the inquiring in the second inquiry step, detecting an information processing apparatus capable of performing the predetermined processing in the second wireless network," and "a second request step of requesting the predetermined processing from the information processing apparatus in the second wireless network capable of performing the predetermined processing, if no information processing apparatus capable of performing the predetermined processing in the first wireless network is detected in the first detection step, wherein the first wireless network is different from the second wireless network," as recited in Claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claim 1 is patentable over *Ohta* and *Asoh et al.*, and respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Independent Claims 10 and 11 include features similar to those of Claim 1 and are believed to be patentable over *Ohta* and *Asoh et al.* for at least the reasons discussed above. The other claims in the present application depend from Claim 1 and are submitted to be patentable over *Ohta* and *Asoh et al.* for at least the same reasons. However, because each dependent claim also is deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, individual consideration of the patentability of each claim on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable consideration and an early passage to issue of the present application.

No petition to extend the time for response to the Office Action is deemed

necessary for this Amendment. If, however, such a petition is required to make this Amendment timely filed, then this paper should be considered such a petition and the Commissioner is authorized to charge the requisite petition fee to Deposit Account 06-1205.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

/Lock See Yu-Jahnes/

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Lock See Yu-Jahnes
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 38,667

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

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